



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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***SAXIFRAGA APETALA***  
**TINY SWAMP SAXIFRAGE**

Tiny Swamp Saxifrage is a short-lived perennial with erect, leafless stems that are 5-10 cm high and arising from a short, often bulblet-bearing rhizome. Rosette leaves are 13-35 mm long and are egg-shaped on a short, broad stalk. The leaves have scattered, long, white or brown hairs, while the stem is densely covered with white, gland-tipped hairs. 5-15 short-stalked flowers are borne in a congested, terminal, egg-shaped cluster. Each saucer-shaped flower has 5 separate, ascending, green sepals that are 1-3 mm long and 10 white stamens attached to the middle of the ovary. The top half of the ovary forms a lobed disk with usually 2 short styles. Flowering in mid-June-July.

Distinguished from *SAXIFRAGA OREGANA* VAR *SUBAPETALA*, which also lacks petals, by the white rather than purple stamens. *S. INTEGRIFOLIA* is very similar, but it has petals and the inflorescence is less congested. *S. RHOMBOIDEA* is the most common high-elevation species, but it also has petals.